Dhamra Port in Orissa

2335. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given approval for the Dhamra Port in Orissa;

(b) the details of the approval given to the proposed port;

(c) whether it is a fact that objection has come up on this approval;

(d) if so, the details of such objection; and

(e) the status of the proposal for completion of the Dhamra Port in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e) Dhamra Port in Orissa is not a major port. As per the provisions of Indian Ports Act, 1908, the responsibility for upgradation/development of ports other than major ports lies with the State Governments concerned, which also have administrative control on such ports.

Seafarers' Welfare Fund Society

2336. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there were allegations of large-scale embezzlement of funds in Seafarers' Welfare Fund Society in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the quantum of funds embezzled/defrauded by its office bearers/employees;

(c) whether any investigation was ordered into this; and

(d) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per report received, a case of fraud of Rs. 50.00 lakhs was committed on Seafarers' Welfare Fund Society.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Seafarers Welfare Fund Society (SWES) had invested in November, 1992 a sum of Rs. 50.00 lakhs under the Recurring Interest Re-deposit Plan with the Bank of Baroda. A deposit receipt for the sum was received from the Bank by the Society. In November, 1993, the Bank officials informed that no such FDR was issued by them. It transpired that a fraud had been committed. The Society filed a civil suit before the Bombay High Court against the Bank of Baroda for recovery of the principal amount of Rs. 50.00 lakhs with interest. The Bank has remitted Rs. 50.00 lakhs towards the principal amount and Rs. 22,62,572.00 towards interest claimed by the Society. On a complaint of misappropriation of funds filed by the Bank of Baroda, the Central Bureau of Investigation investigated the case and filed charge sheet against five persons. Four other persons were also involved in this case.

Out of the above mentioned nine persons departmental disciplinary proceedings have been initiated against a nominee of the Government of India.

Performance of major ports

2337. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the financial and operational performance of various major ports during last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, port-wise;

(c) whether Government have taken steps to modernise the activities of various major ports;

(d) if so, the specific steps taken in respect of Paradip Port; and

(e) the programmes drawn up thereon for Tenth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of financial and operational performance are given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(c) Modernisation of major ports is an on-going process to cope with the demands of maritime trade.

(d) and (e) An outlay of Rs. 159.49 crores has been allocated for the new schemes under the Tenth Five Year Plan for Paradip Port Trust as per the following details:—